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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5126

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 000295

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON STATUS OF NEW PORT STATES AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 41986

¶1. (U) Emboff delivered demarche in reftel on April 30 to Dr. Jeanson Djobo, Director of Fisheries at the Ministry of Animal Production and Fisheries. Djobo, who said he attended the second session of the FAO Technical Consultation in January 2009 in Rome, was not aware of the next round of the Technical Consultation to be held in Rome May 4-8, 2009. Djobo said he would call the Mission of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to the FAO to ask that a member of its staff cover the meeting.

¶2. (U) Djobo said the U.S. position is logical. But, he stated that before the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire can formulate its position, he will need to seek legal counsel regarding the implications of having the eventual agreement be a freestanding instrument or one that is concluded under the auspices of the FAO. Djobo noted that one way of combating the movement of illegal, unreported, and unregulated vessels to non-party ports in order to land their catch would be to enact measures prohibiting all commercial export of fish from such ports.

NESBITT